	MARYLAND HISTORICAL ERMINATION OF ELIGIBI	
Property Name: The Davidson Transfer	and Storage Company Building	Inventory Number: B-1088
Address: 34 S. Eutaw Street and 400 W.	Lombard Street	Historic district: yes X no
City: Baltimore	Zip Code: 21201	County: Baltimore City
JSGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West		
roperty Owner: Diana Kafouros		Tax Account ID Number: 0654013
ax Map Parcel Number(s): 0000	Tax Map Nu	mber: 4
Project: Red Line Project	Age	ency: Maryland Transit Administration
Agency Prepared By: Parsons Brinckerho	off	
Preparer's Name: Matt Manning		Date Prepared: 8/12/2011
reparer's Eligibility Recommendation:	Eligibility recommend	Architectural Preservation (CHAP)  edX Eligibility not recommended BCDEFG  urce to a NR district/property:
Inventory Number:	Eligible:	yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes	X no Name:	Date:
parcel near the northwest corner of S. Euta sections that front different streets: 34 S. E with replacement windows that change the	afer and Storage Company Building was and W. Lombard streets in Baltim utaw Street and 400 W. Lombard Stroriginal appearance substantially. Tombard Street is oriented on a north-	was constructed in 1924, and occupies a 0.057-acro fore City. The T-shaped parcel has two building freet. The building has been altered, most notably the section fronting S. Eutaw Street is oriented on a south axis. The building is currently being used as
		at parapet roof punctuated with metal vents and of 400 W. Lombard Street, however, has a shed roo
The 6 - 1 24 C E C		nd a single haven the second story. The first floor

The east-facing façade at 34 S. Eutaw Street is three bays on the ground floor and a single bay on the second story. The first floor

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B-1088

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includes the main entrance and an adjacent window. The entrance is located at the façade's south side; it comprises paired, aluminum-framed plate glass doors. North of the doors is a tripartite aluminum-framed window with three horizontal lights. The area below the window has been filled in with running bond rows of brick. South of the paired doors is a secondary entrance with a glazed and paneled wood door. The door, which opens outward, has two vertical panels on its lower half; a frosted glass window occupies its upper half. The entrance includes a single sidelight on its north side. As with the door, the sidelight has a paneled base with glazing above; however, the sidelight glazing is transparent. This entrance leads to the second floor via a flight of stairs just inside the doorway. Above the windows and doors, the storefront includes framing for three rectangular lights that have been removed and the opening covered with unfinished plywood. A curved vinyl awning shelters the entire storefront and extends from the façade to cover these plywood panels. The awning incorporates a signage fascia that advertises the names of the ground-floor restaurant and the bar on the second level. The storefront is framed by two brick pilasters. Each includes a precast concrete base and capital, but the storefront awning covers half of each pilaster's capital.

The second floor façade has a brick rowlock course above the storefront awning. This upper level holds a single tripartite window at its center. The window has a painted aluminum frame with fixed rectangular lights, and a painted plywood panel covers the frame at the top. The window rests on a brick sill above four rows of brick in a basket weave pattern. Two columns of stacked brick stretchers border the window and the basket weave brick. At the corners of the basket weave, square stone blocks, the same width as the stretchers, interrupt the columns. A rectangular, exterior-lighted wood sign is applied to the façade directly above the window and extends beyond the stretcher columns. Two Flemish-bond brick piers frame the upper-level façade. The piers extend above the roofline to a parapet wall, where they are crowned by a slightly projecting rowlock course. The parapet between the two piers comprises a false brick gable. This gable is also finished in a Flemish-bond and has a rowlock cap.

The façade is the only visible portion of the building at 34 S. Eutaw Street, except for rear sections of the north and south elevations that exist between the adjacent buildings. The north elevation section is an eight to ten foot partial elevation comprised of common bond brick and a sealed second-floor window. The large former window opening has a brick sill and fronts a square area between the buildings that originally served as a light well before the building to the north was demolished. The north elevation's first floor is obscured by a plywood-faced wood-framed wall between the rear elevations of the buildings at 400 W. Lombard and 32 S. Eutaw Streets. The south elevation section appears to be a solid brick wall, also likely of common bond.

400 W. Lombard Street's south-facing façade includes a single bay on each of the building's two levels. The first level includes the main entrance and an adjacent window. The entrance is located on the façade's west side; it comprises a paneled and glazed wood door. This door's paneled bottom half features a cross-brace pattern, and its glazed upper half holds diamond-patterned muntins. The remainder of the first floor consists of a tripartite window with three fixed rectangular units separated by wide wood mullions. As with the adjacent entrance door, the window units are wood and feature diamond-patterned muntins. The window includes a wood sill and the area below has been filled in with running bond rows of brick. Black paint covers the entire door and window system (including glazing). A plywood signage fascia above the window and door advertises the current tenant and indicates the location of the main entrance on S. Eutaw Street. Above the plywood fascia is a brick soldier course and a course comprising alternating soldier and stacked rowlock bricks.

The second story contains a full-width segmental arch window. This window comprises three fixed, aluminum-framed plate-glass panels surmounted by a wood-framed, four-part window beneath the arch. This four-part window includes wide, paneled mullions and fixed glazing that has been painted over. The paneled mullions have narrow, raised edges reminiscent of wide flange steel beams. The window has a brick sill and is crowned by a segmental brick arch formed by a rowlock and soldier course. Above and below the window, Flemish-bond brick finishes the second-story façade. Stacked brick stretchers frame the first- and second-floor bays. These stretchers continue from the façade's base toward the roofline before meeting a soldier course just below the building's brick cornice. The corbelled brick cornice projects from the façade and features a decorative saw tooth course.

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The building's north (rear) elevation has no openings and features a rough brick surface; it exhibits crudely stacked bricks and rough finished mortar joints. A square exterior brick chimney stands on the north elevation's west side. The appearance of this north elevation suggests another, no longer extant, building stood adjacent to this side of 400 W. Lombard Street at the time of its construction.

A portion of the building's east elevation is exposed on its northeast corner; two windows occupy the second story. A metal-framed, six-light window with frosted or textured glass stands at the east elevation's north end. South of this six-light window is a larger vinyl-clad double-hung sash window. The window is covered by a metal security grill; a section of plywood pierced by a metal vent partially obscures the window's upper half.

A large asphalt parking area is located to the building's north and west. The Eutaw Street façade faces a concrete-paver and brick sidewalk planted with young hardwood trees. Along the sidewalk in front of the Eutaw Street side of the building, two tall metal pylons hold spotlights that illuminate the Bromo Seltzer Tower across the street. Reproduction single post metal light standards are located along Eutaw. The Lombard Street façade fronts a poured concrete sidewalk that includes a bus stop and wood bench. Cobra-head light standards are located along Lombard, and a traffic light is at the intersection. Similar two- and three-story buildings adjoin the Davidson Transfer and Storage Company Building, but larger buildings, ranging from the late nineteenth to late twentieth centuries, occupy the immediate vicinity. Oriole Park at Camden Yards and the Inner Harbor are situated to the south and southeast.

The condition of the evaluated building is good.

#### Historic Context

In November 1923, the Davidson Storage and Transfer Company purchased three buildings from local real estate developers Samuel Speert, Robert Seff, and Harry T. Kellman. The buildings were located near the northwest corner of Eutaw and Lombard Streets: 32 and 34 S. Eutaw Street, and 400 W. Lombard Street. The Davidson Transfer and Storage Company was formed by Isaac Davidson in 1896. Davidson immigrated to Baltimore from Eastern Europe and spent several years in Chicago before returning to Baltimore to start his business. He purchased a horse and wagon, and began transporting fabric and finished garments between factories, as well as to the railroad and harbor. He quickly grew the business and began operating with motor vehicles in 1914, establishing regular shipping service between multiple nearby cities, including Philadelphia and New York.

At the time Davidson acquired the three properties on Eutaw and Lombard, a three-story brick building was located at each address. The properties had been advertised in The Baltimore Sun, as early as 1907, as being a prime opportunity for a warehouse conversion because the lots adjoined at the rear. The Davidson Company applied for a building permit to erect a two-story brick building at 34 S. Eutaw Street in February 1924. The proposed 18-foot by 89-foot building was to cost approximately \$22,000. At the time the permit was filed, the company had already relocated to the building at 32 S. Eutaw Street from its previous location at 9 S. Eutaw Street, one block north. Evidence suggests that a new building at 34 S. Eutaw Street and 400 W. Lombard Street was constructed soon after Davidson's purchase. Although facing in different directions, the facades have same color bricks with similar patterns. While it is possible the building at 400 W. Lombard was simply remodeled when the new building was constructed at 34. S. Eutaw, the building today has only two stories, and when Davidson acquired the buildings, each was three-stories tall. In January 1929, Isaac Davidson also purchased the building at 402 W. Lombard Street.

While former rowhouses were occasionally appropriate for business use, new commercial industrial buildings were also erected to accommodate small-scale businesses. These buildings were designed with smaller budgets and without the decorative frills

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common to the larger factories. When present, ornament was typically incorporated via simple vertical or horizontal banding or through the application of brick and a combination of materials. The building at 34 S. Eutaw Street and 400 W. Lombard Street was utilitarian, but was given a degree of architectural interest through the varied brick patterns present on the respective facades. The use of patterned brick is suggestive of the elaborate Victorian-era ornament of the surrounding industrial loft buildings, albeit at a much smaller scale. As with the larger buildings, the facades of 34 S. Eutaw and 400 W. Lombard incorporated large windows, suggesting an open interior plan.

While located at Eutaw and Lombard streets, the Davidson Company served the thriving nearby garment district businesses, and also won several other large contracts. In 1928, it was contracted to haul the windows for the Empire State Building from the manufacturing site in Baltimore to the construction site in New York City. The company created special trucks for carrying the windows and delivered enough windows for part of a floor each day, for all 102 floors. A short time later, Davidson designed and built four trailers for hauling frozen food for Seabrook Farms. The design was so successful that the farm built its own transport fleet using the same equipment. In 1930, the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore prepared to move into a new building on the same site as the existing one. Davidson was hired to gradually move the library's books to its temporary location and return the books once construction was complete. A total of 400,000 books were moved shelf by shelf over the weekends to minimize service interruptions (for more information about the Davidson Transfer and Storage Company, see the MIHP Form for the Davidson Transfer and Storage Company Building [B-1088]).

The Davidson Transfer and Storage moved its primary operations to a new facility on Key Highway in 1931; it maintained offices at this location until 1934. By then, the garment industry in Baltimore had reached its peak during World War I when government orders for military apparel led to further expansion. The industry began to decline following the war, and many firms were forced to shut down. The decline continued during the Great Depression; the government's World War II clothing contracts went to other cities, and few clothing manufacturers remained by the 1950s.

Despite vacating the evaluated property, the company continued to own the building until 1945. After the Davidson Company moved the last of its offices, 34 S. Eutaw Street and 400 W. Lombard Street continued to be used by other businesses. Although they comprised a single property, the building sections were occupied separately by various commercial tenants. The 1951 Sanborn map reflects this use, for the connecting wall between the two sections is filled in. In 1942, 34 S. Eutaw Street housed several businesses, including the Union Special Machine Co., the Standard Sales Co. (men's clothing), and a real estate office. In 1958, the two buildings housed a printing firm, HG Buehner & Sons, and the MD Display Service, a sign company. In the 1970s, the buildings became home to the Ambassador Restaurant, which occupied both buildings.

While many nearby former loft factory buildings remain, the character of the area surrounding Eutaw and Lombard streets has changed dramatically since the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many buildings to the south and east were built after 1960, and most were constructed after 1980. The intersection is located close to the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and the University of Maryland Medical Center. The Baltimore Convention Center, the 1st Mariner Arena, and Oriole Park at Camden Yards are located within a two-block radius. Hotels and parking garages serve the convention center and nearby tourist attractions, and there are numerous new apartment and condominium buildings contemporary with the loft conversions. The growth of the university and the medical center has resulted in an influx of students and professionals. Today, the uses of the buildings on the corner of Eutaw and Lombard streets have again evolved to reflect the changing demographics of the area. These buildings currently function as an entertainment and retail node, offering such amenities as a nightclub and liquor store. The evaluated building currently houses the Upper Deck Restaurant and the All Stars Sports Bar.

Significance Evaluation

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The Davidson Transfer and Storage Company building was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C, using the guidelines set forth in the National Register Bulletin 15 titled How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. It was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D as part of this evaluation.

The Davidson Transfer and Storage Company Building is associated with the continued commercialization and industrialization of this part of Baltimore City during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The company also played a role with transporting goods for the businesses in housed in the garment district lofts nearby. However, this building does not have an association with these historic contexts in an important way. The Davidson Transfer and Storage Company undertook some large and innovative shipping and moving contracts during its association with the property, but these developments have not been shown to have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion A.

The building is part of a complex of buildings that housed the Davidson Transfer and Storage Company owned and operated by Isaac Davidson. Under his guidance, the moving company undertook some large and innovative shipping and moving contracts while it occupied these buildings. However, Davidson is not a person significant in our past. No other individuals significant in our past are associated with this property. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B.

The Davidson Transfer and Storage Company building is a nondescript and altered example of the small-scale commercial and industrial buildings that were constructed in the garment district in the early twentieth century. It has no discernible style and includes standard architectural features. As a commercial/industrial building, Davidson Transfer is neither an early example of its kind, nor did it introduce any design innovations that influenced later buildings. The building does not contain enough distinctive characteristics to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction. It is not the work of a master and exhibits common materials and forms that have been substantially altered over time. Windows have been replaced with non-original materials, and the original street-level facades are no longer discernible. These alterations obscure the building's original design intent and diminish its integrity. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion C.

Based on the evaluated criteria, the Davidson Transfer and Storage Company Building is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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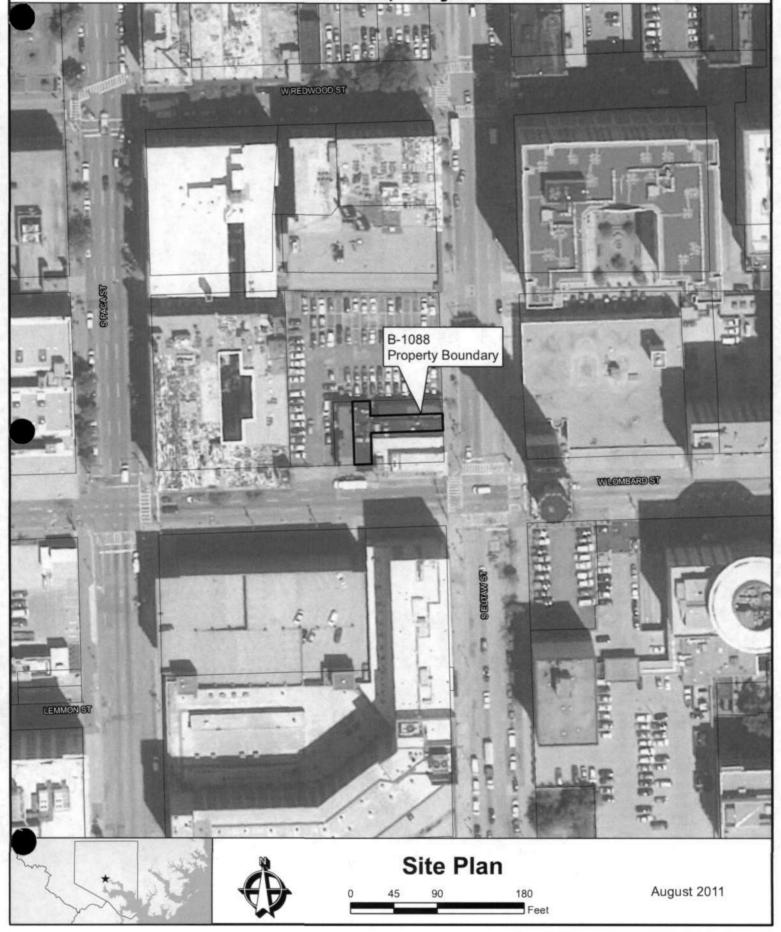
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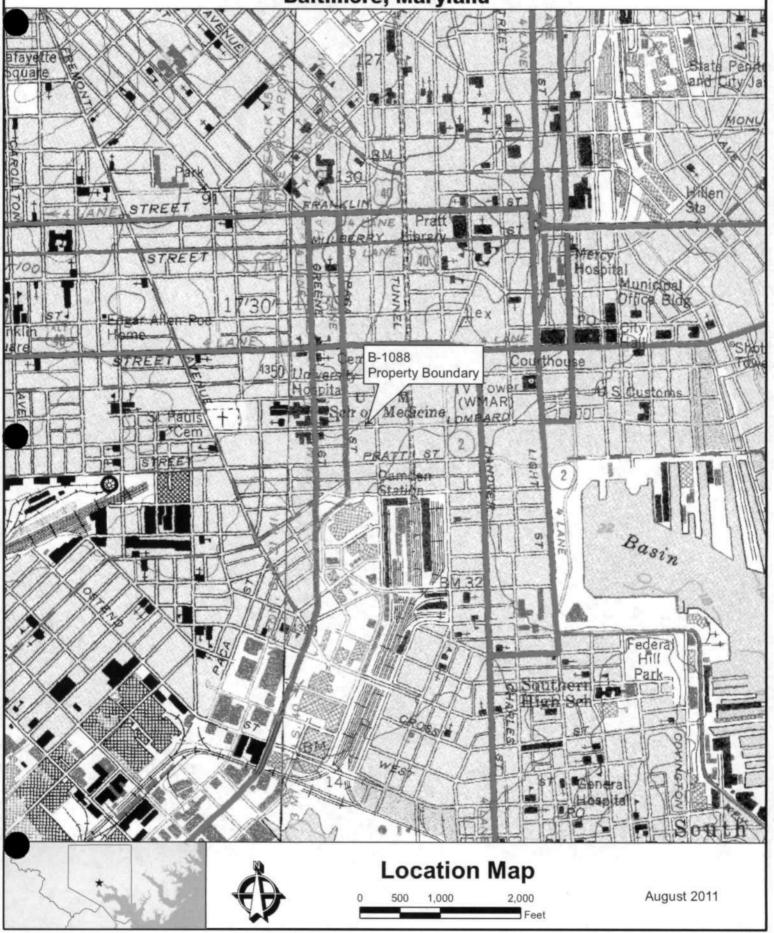
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### The DavidsonTransfer and Storage Company, B-1088 34 South Eutaw Street & 400 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, Maryland



# The Davidson Transfer and Storage Company, B-1088 34 South Eutaw Street & 400 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, Maryland



Davidson Transfer and Storage Company (B-1088) Photo Log

B-1088\_2011-07-26\_01.tif -34 S. Eutaw St., east facade

B-1088\_2011-07-26\_02.tif -34 S. Eutaw St., storefront detail

B-1088\_2011-07-21\_03.tif -34 S. Eutaw St., upper-level facade

B-1088\_2011-07-21\_04.tif -34 S. Eutaw St., detail, brick pilaster at storefront

B-1088\_2011-07-21\_05.tif -400 W. Lombard St., south facade

B-1088\_2011-07-21\_06.tif -400 W. Lombard St., facade looking NW from sidewalk

B-1088\_2011-07-21\_07.tif -400 W. Lombard St., view to NE corner from parking area



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R-1088 Davidson Transfer and Storage Company Baltimore City, MD C. Taniguchi 7/26/11 34 S. Entan St., storefront detail 2/7



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13-1088 Davidson Transfer and Storeje Company Baltimore City MD M. Manning 7/21/11 400 W. Lombard St, south freede 5/7



13-1088 Davidson Transfer and Storage Company Baltimore City, MD M. Manning 7/21/11 400 W. Lomberd St. facede looking NW from Sidewalk.



13-1088 Davidson Transfer and Storage Company Baltimore City, MD M Manning 7/21/11 400 W. Comberd St., view to NE corner from parking area

### Statement of Significance

This small brick building at 34 S. Eutaw Street was built in the early 1920's and served for many years as the main office of Davidson Transfer, one of Baltimore's oldest and most important hauling companies. From its earliest jobs carrying piece work between cutters and sewing shops in the Loft District to recent days moving computers and other fragile items, Davidson has grown and prospered along with the city's industries.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI#041085711



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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

\_EXCELLENT

FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

UNEXPOSED

RUINS

\_UNALTERED

VORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small building is composed of two separate buildings, probably residential structures that were combined in the rear during the 1920s. The two sections form an "L", with only two facades visible, one on Lambard Street and one on Eutaw Street. They are surrounded on all other sides by other structures.

The facades are both c. 1920 and were probably rebuilt when the two were combined since reddish-brown textured brick is used in both. The Lembard Street facade has an impressive segmental arch over double-hung four sash windows on the second level. The entrance on the street level is a modern renovation. The Eutaw Street facade also has a commercial-style group of three sash windows on the second floor. The entrance here has also been recently rebuilt.

RIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	_THEATER
1800-1899	<b>√</b> COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>
√1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small brick building at 34 S. Eutaw was built in the early 1920's and served for many years as the main office of Davidson Transfer, one of Baltimore's oldest and most important hauling companies. From its earliest jobs carrying piece work between cutters and sewers to recent days moving computers and other fragile items, Davidson has grown and prospered along with the city's industry.

### Historical Significance

Even before Davidson Transfer had permanent offices in the loft district, they were closely associated with the garment businesses there. Isaac Davidson arrived in Baltimore from Eastern Europe early in the 1890's, before going to Chicago to look for work. Returning to Baltimore with a wife and son in 1896, he purchased a horse and wagon for \$125.00 and set up Davidson Transfer from a curbside on Light Street near the docks. He hauled raw materials to cutters and cut goods to sweatshops; and then returned the finished products for packaging and shipping to stores in the South. Davidson continually made improvements to his services to the clothing firms and his business expanded rapidly.

As clothing manufacturers consolidated operations and relied more and more on machinery for their production, Davidson developed facilities to move such equipment. They were equally well prepared to move entire factories. To facilitate movement of raw materials out of Baltimore's port, Davidson instituted a system in which he paid the freight charges, hauled the goods to the manufacturer, and was paid for both services by the customer.

In 1910 Davidson decided to branch into trucking and purchased a Ford Model T. It could not compete with horses and wagons, and was returned to the dealer. In 1914 the firm purchased an Autocar, the first of many, and began making daily trips to Washington. By 1917, in a Packard truck with a special body, they began scheduled

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vertical Files, Baltimore Industrial Museum

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

217 North Charles Street

Baltimore

CITY OR TOWN

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438



(301) 396-1931, 1936

21201

STATE

Maryland

34 S. Eutaw Hist. Sign. p. 2

trips between Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. In addition, Davidson began to take on special hauling assignments, for which they became well known in the area. One of the first long-haul commissions involved transferring a Washington resident's belongings to his summer home in New York. The shipment included horses and Davidson's success brought business from Pimlico and Laurel racetracks as well as others. In 1928 they were contracted to haul the Baltimore-made windows for the Empire State Building. Carrying only enough glass for a particular area of the building, a Davidson truck arrived each morning at 7:00 until all 102 floors were completed.

A project for a large frozen food company necessitated the development of insulated trailers cooled with dry ice for zero-degree hauling. The four Davidson had built were so successful that the food company built an entire fleet with identical equipment.

Davidson made a specialty of moving large organizations without disruption to their normal activities. In 1930 they moved the Pratt Library while a new building was constructed on their Cathedral Street site. They moved several area hospitals, and in the early 1960's moved the Social Security offices from many buildings Downtown to new headquarters in Woodlawn. Other contracts for the Federal Government included Defense-related work during and after World War II. The firm, unknown to them at the time, carried detailed plans for the invasion of North Africa. They also moved the original Constitution and other important Archives from Washington to Fort Knox.

Davidson were pioneers in the use of new types of equipment. They were one of the first fleets to use voltage regulators and alternators. They designed sleeper-bunks for cabs and the first articulated truck in the East. They also designed trailers using aluminum as early as 1930; and Davidson pioneered the use of stainless steel and plastic trailers as well. In 1933, they purchased Autocar's first diesel-powered tractor, although they did not completely adopt them until 1956.

Davidson kept offices on Eutaw Street even after they began operating facilities in the 200 block of Key Highway in 1931. In 1934 they consolidated all activities into a terminal at 300 Key Highway, purchased from the American Ice Co. The firm now has offices in Towson.

The Eutaw Street building was sold to an investor and saw various uses over the years. In the late 1970's it became the home of the Ambassador House Restaurant when that firm was forced to vacate its Pratt Street building.

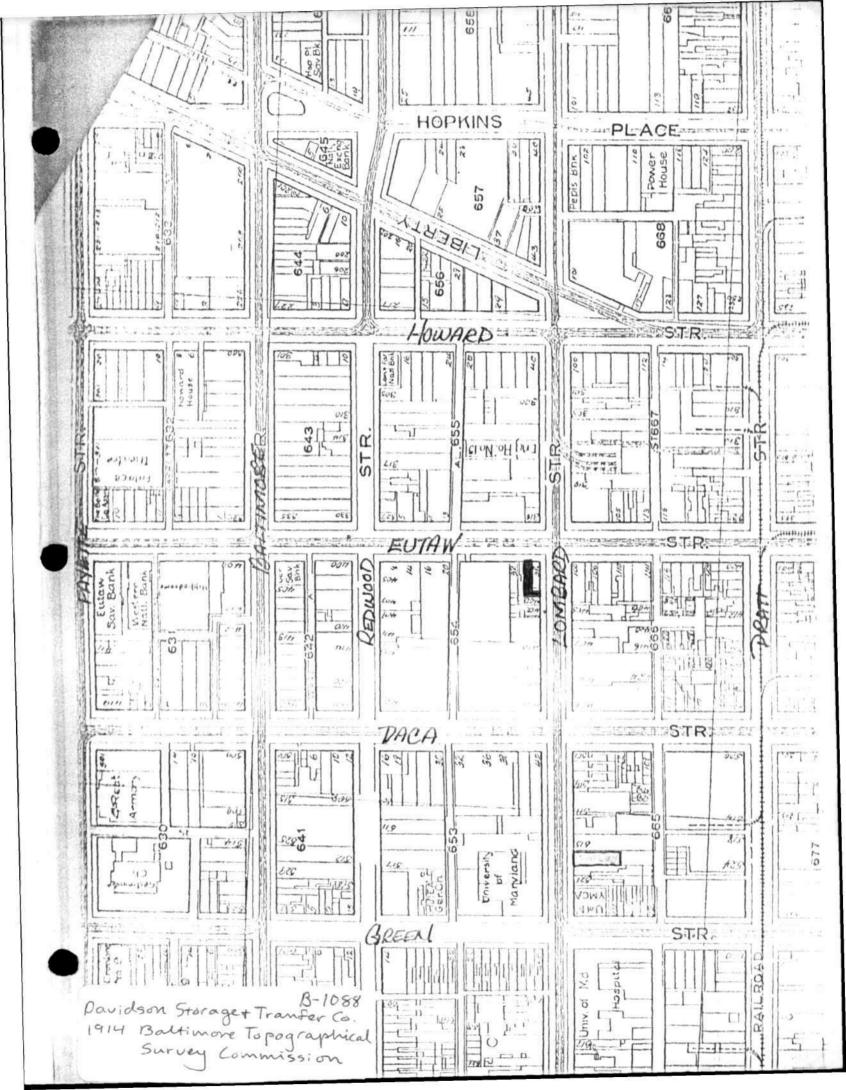
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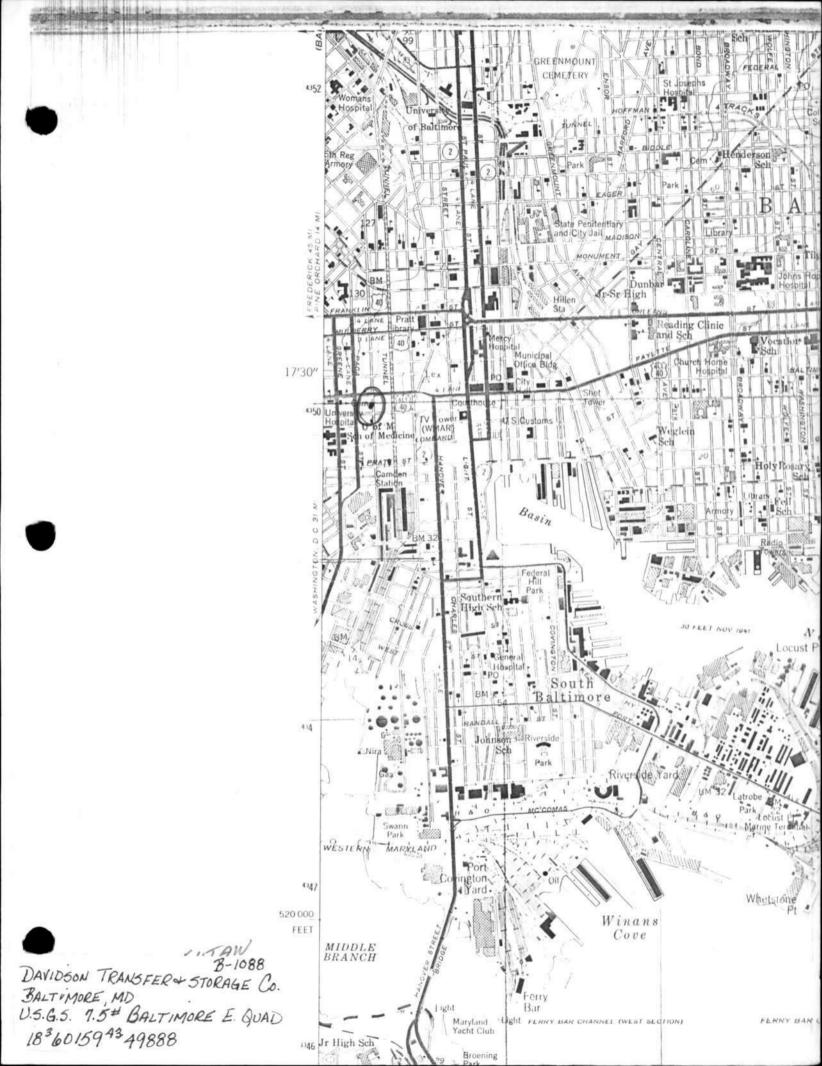
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DAVIDSON TRANSFERY B-1088 STORAGE CO. BALTIMORE CITY, MD PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST JAN. 1981/ Lombard St. Facade Ambassador House

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